

## FORM B – BUILDING

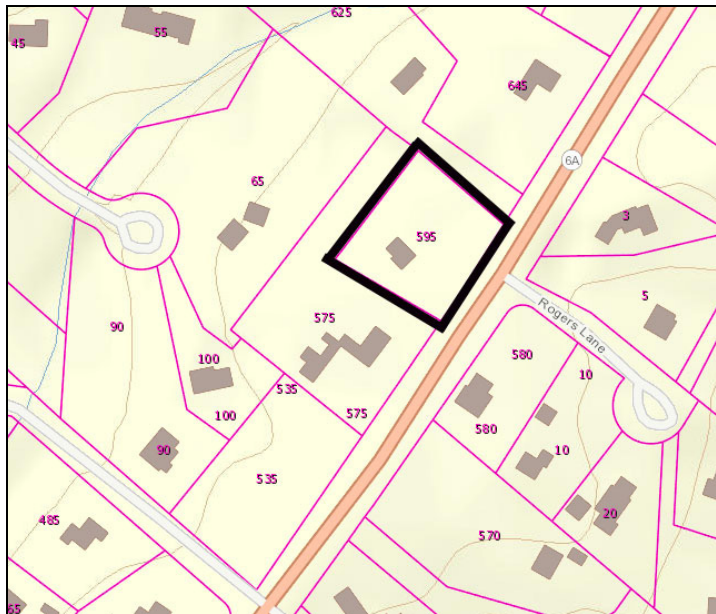
MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION  
MASSACHUSETTS ARCHIVES BUILDING  
220 MORRISSEY BOULEVARD  
BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02125

### Photograph



View from south.

### Locus Map (north at top)



**Recorded by:** Larson Fisher Associates, Inc. with Kathryn Grover

**Organization:** Eastham Historical Commission

**Date:** May 2013

Assessor's Number USGS Quad Area(s) Form Number

21-8

ORLEANS

EAS.625

**Town/City:** Town of Eastham

**Place:** (*neighborhood or village*): South Eastham

**Address:** 595 State Highway

**Historic Name:** John S. & Grace D. Rogers House

**Uses:** Present: single-family residence

Original: single-family residence

**Date of Construction:** 1937-45

**Source:** tax records, deeds

**Style/Form:** Cape Cod

**Architect/Builder:** unknown

#### Exterior Material:

Foundation: concrete block

Wall/Trim: wood shingle/wood

Roof: asphalt shingles

**Outbuildings/Secondary Structures:** none

**Major Alterations** (*with dates*): large shed-roofed dormer on front & large two-story rear ell (dates unknown).

**Condition:** good

**Moved:** no ☒ yes ☐ **Date:**

**Acreage:** 0.4 acre

**Setting:** The subject property is located on the west side of State Highway, directly across from where Rogers Lane enters that roadway. Single family land uses are located on the either side, to the rear and across the street but a little farther to the south is the cottage colony, Anchorage on the Cove.

# INVENTORY FORM B CONTINUATION SHEET

EASTHAM

595 STATE HIGHWAY

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☐ Recommended for listing in the National Register of Historic Places.

### ARCHITECTURAL DESCRIPTION:

The house on the subject property was originally a small one-story wood frame Cape Cod-style dwelling with gable roof, brick center chimney and wood shingle cladding and wood corner boards. The front facade has three bays with a center entrance; the house is two bays deep. It appears to have retained some of its original eight-over-eight and six-over-six windows that are another hallmark of this architectural style. The front door looks to be a replacement, though in keeping with the overall style. It has a very plain wood surround. The roof is somewhat asymmetrical, with the front wall being one story in height while the rear wall is a story-and-a-half. At some point in the past a large two-bay shed-roofed dormer was added to the front, which has newer windows, but in the appropriate six-over-six pattern. Another major addition was a two-story two-bay cross-gabled rear ell that virtually doubled the area of the house. It too has newer windows. The rear addition has a lower pitched roof than the main house. No building permits for either addition are available. An unimproved driveway with a curb cut on State Highway runs along the southwesterly side of the house to a parking pad behind the house. Mature deciduous trees line the right side and rear property lines (west and north) and a few mature coniferous trees are located southwest of the driveway. Otherwise the site has a fairly level, open lawn.

### HISTORICAL NARRATIVE

According to town records, the house at 595 State Highway was built in 1931, though tax records suggest it was built at least six years later. It was constructed on land owned by John Saltonstall Rogers and his wife Grace, who may have been married about that time. Born in 1903 in Orleans, Rogers was the son of Eli Fuller and Hattie Clifford Rogers. At the time of his birth his father was a laborer, and by 1910 he was working as a shore fisherman, as was John in 1920. The 1930 census shows John S. Rogers as a twenty-six-year-old poultry farm worker still living in his parents' South Orleans household. Tax records list him as an Orleans resident in 1931, though he may have moved to the 595 State Highway house by that time.<sup>1</sup>

In early October 1930 Rogers acquired land and buildings, including 575 State Highway, from the heirs of master mariner and farmer Clarington Smith Jr. (1840-1926).<sup>2</sup> Born in Orleans, Clarington Smith Jr. was distantly related to John S. Rogers by marriage. His mother Appiah Rogers Smith was the granddaughter of Hezekiah Rogers (born 1751) of Harwich and his first wife Mary Yates; John S. Rogers was a great-great-grandson of Hezekiah Rogers and his second wife, Ruth Rogers. Clarington Smith Sr. (1811-78) had moved to Eastham from Orleans by 1858. In 1866 his eldest son Clarington Jr. acquired from Alvin Rogers the property which contained the house at 575 State Highway and on which this house was later built.<sup>3</sup> Rogers had run a small tannery in Easton in the early 1830s and was the town liquor agent in 1865; he is, however, otherwise obscure, and his relation if any to Appiah Rogers Smith is unknown. The 1866 acquisition included a dwelling house, outbuildings, and a barn and storeroom; that last structure, the deed mandated, was to be removed within six months of the purchase.

Eastham tax records for 1931 show John S. Rogers with a house valued at \$2500, a barn and shed valued at \$520, several poultry houses collectively worth \$70, and a 1.5-acre homestead lot. These records suggest that the house at #595 had not yet been built. Tax records for 1937 also show him as owning only one dwelling house. The 1940 census shows Rogers with \$3500 in real property and as a duck and chicken farmer; he shared either 575 or 595 State Highway (if the latter had been built by then) with his wife Grace and their two-year-old daughter Cornelia. The census indicates that they had lived in the same house in 1935.

The house at 595 State Highway must have been built by 1945, for in that year Rogers sold the land and buildings now numbered 595 State Highway to Muriel C. Todd. He and his wife probably remained at 575 State Highway. Tax records for 1947 and 1954 show Rogers with one house, a barn, and a brooder house on a homestead lot of one acre. John S. and Grace D. Rogers sold the Clarington Smith Jr. homestead property in 1968, by which time they had moved to Hyannis; he died there in 1994.

In 1947 Muriel Todd, then Muriel Bollard, sold 595 State Highway to James A. and Lillian P. Harper.<sup>4</sup> Tax records for 1954 show the Harpers owning lot 23A in town assessors' block 4, while the Rogerses owned lot 23. Clearly the property was subdivided when Todd acquired 595 State Highway in 1945, but no subdivision plan was recorded in John S. Rogers's name.

Born in 1918 in Lanarkshire, Scotland, James Alexander Harper emigrated with his parents James and Elsie (or Alsa) Harper when he was nine months old, in 1919 on the *S.S. Canada* from Liverpool to Quebec. By 1930 the family was living in Boston. James Harper then worked as a milkman, and he and his wife had had four more children after settling in the United States. By

<sup>1</sup> The 1930 census lists a Grace F. Rogers as a daughter of Eli F. and Hattie Rogers; she is shown as 35 years old and born in Massachusetts. No record of her birth was found, and this woman may have been son John S. Rogers's wife, though the 1940 census shows her then as thirty-six years old, the same age as her husband, and a native of Pennsylvania.

<sup>2</sup> Charles C. Smith et al. to John S. Rogers, 4 October 1930, Barnstable County Registry of Deeds (BCD) 480:283.

<sup>3</sup> Alvin Rogers to Clarington Smith Jr., 2 June 1866, BCD 91:50.

<sup>4</sup> Muriel C. Bollard to James A. and Lillian P. Harper, 29 October 1947, BCD 681:449.

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1935 James A. Harper had moved to Eastham, where he married, and he served in the United States Army during World War II. Tax records for 1954 and 1956 show the Harpers with a house valued at \$2000 and a lot of .4 acre.

James A. Harper died in Eastham in February 1994, and in March 1995 his widow Lillian and son James A. Harper Jr. deeded the property to James A. Jr. He and his wife Diane Harper placed the 595 State Highway property in trust in 2006.<sup>5</sup>

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<sup>5</sup> James A. Harper Jr., administrator estate James A. Harper, and Lillian P. Harper to James A. Harper Jr., 27 March 1995, BCD 9605:92; James A. Harper Jr. to James A. Harper Jr. and Diane Harper, trustees Harper Living Trust, 12 June 2006, BCD 21119:213.



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PHOTOGRAPHS  
(credit Larson Fisher Associates, 2012-2013 unless otherwise noted)



View from



View from southwest (Town of Eastham, Assessor’s Photo).